

**MRS. MERRILL'S THOUSANDS.****TESTIMONY BROUGHT FROM ROME IN SUPPORT OF HER WILL.****The Contestants' Claim that she was Unduly Influenced to Leave her Money to Cardinal McCloskey—The Custom of Employing Men to do Chambermaids' Work.**

The contest over the will of Mrs. Catherine A. Merrill, who died last year, was yesterday before Surrogate Calvin C. Merrill, of New York, after an interval of nearly \$400,000, since given to his wife, the late death of her husband. They had resided in this city, but they lived in Europe nearly all of their years. Their adopted son, George Merrill, lives in this city. His marriage displeased Mrs. Merrill, who would not hear his name mentioned after her husband's death. When her will was read, it was found that George Merrill and many of Mrs. Merrill's nephews and nieces were not mentioned in it. A few of the nieces received \$5,000 each, and a sum was named for the founding of a religious institution, but the largest sum—the most of the estate—was given to the Cardinal. The contest over the will was begun in the year in which Mrs. Merrill died, 1877, by George Merrill and seventeen nieces and nephews, on the ground that Mrs. Merrill was a Protestant up to the year 1873; that she then became a Roman Catholic, and was unduly influenced against her relatives by Catholics, when her mind, as it is alleged, was entangled. The contest has been lengthened by the necessity for sending commissioners to Rome to take testimony. The documents which had been presented to Cardinal McCloskey were signed in Rome. The testimony of Miss Mary E. Thompson of New Hampshire, who had met Mr. McCloskey at Rome, was that he did not know Cardinal McCloskey. She is a Roman Catholic in religion. On May 2, 1874, she first saw Mr. Merrill in the Grand Hotel, Rome, and had a talk with him to vindicate Mrs. Merrill's feelings toward Miss Auguste Tiboutte. Mrs. Merrill's nieces.

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